THE EAST BAY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.

THE BLOWN FUSE

CLUB STATION W6CUS

VOLUME LXXI NUMBER 11

January 2025

EBARC Meetings

Next meeting:Jan 10, 2025

Unitarian Universalist Church Of Berkeley

Safir Room
1 Lawson Rd., Kensington, CA

Check your email for Zoom link.

The Executive Committee is currently meeting via Zoom on the Tuesday before the second Friday General Meeting.

Welcome EBARC Members to the first edition of the *Blown Fuse* for 2025.

Please plan to join us at the meeting on Jan 10, 2025 in-person or on the Zoom Link.

Program: TBD

The Blown Fuse is published monthly by the East Bay Amateur Radio Club, Inc. and is a service provided as part of membership. *The Blown Fuse* welcomes articles of interest to its members and amateur radio in general. *The Blown Fuse* reserves the right to edit or reject any material submitted. Material submitted becomes the property of *The Blown Fuse*. Permission is hereby granted to reproduce material printed herein provided proper acknowledgment is given. Editor: Audrey Nieman W6BBQ

Deadline for February Issue is Jan. 26, 2025.

Blown Fuse Back Issues

The Internet Archive, where the digital versions of the Club newsletters are located was hacked, and taken down briefly this month. The area where EBARC newsletters (some predating the name "Blown Fuse") are stored did go down with the hack. The servers have been restored and our newsletters are accessible with the URL: https://archive.org/details/east-bay-arc

President's Message

Dear EBARC,

Happy Holidays! I hope you and your family have a restful and enjoyable break, and I wish you all the best for the New Year.
I'm excited to share several interesting topics with the club in the coming year, including:

* Echolink/Allstar & Repeater control
* OpenWebSDR Automated FT8 and CW spotting
* A field trip to the Maritime Coastal Radio Station KPH
* DMR Digital Mobile Radio
* An Emergency Communications Panel
* Local Winlink assets and equipment needed to fill out and send ICS forms over a digital network

I'm also eager to share my passion for HF radio bands, which has allowed me to connect with people around the world. My personal log includes approximately 6,500 mostly digital QSOs using JT65 and FT8. I'm asking members to share their hf activities by volunteering to present their POTA, SOTA, or home HF activities to the club.

Additionally, I'm looking forward to planning our Field Day. As a reminder, the club has accumulated equipment and uses the UUCB's space for meetings. Please keep an eye out for the upcoming survey. Also, be on the lookout for a new list of interesting Nets in the Bay Area and Northern California.

73,
Mathison Ott KJ6DZB
Good DX!

Minutes of the December Meeting

he EBARC General Meeting was held on Friday December 13, 2024 as a hybrid meeting. The in-person meeting occurred at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley (UUCB) at 1 Lawson Road, Kensington CA 94704-1015. The on-line meeting was held via the Zoom Internet Conferencing application. There were 7 members present and 10 members on Zoom. The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM by President Todd Teachout W8BIK. Officers also present were Vice President Howdy Goudey KE6BEE and Treasurer Audrey Nieman W6BBQ. Members present were Jeff Miller KJ6RHF, Frans Kuypers KJ6IUV, Karen Fenton KK6ZPM and Jay Fenton KJ6WSS. Present on Zoom were Secretary Jan Kuhl AC5RB and members DJ Djovida KJ6DJ, Tim Eisler KD6EMS, Matheson Ott KJ6DZB, Robin Mitchell KN6CRP, Alvin Todd KK6UQX, Joe Fisher K5EJL, Don Simon NI6A, Lorraine Schnurr KN6CRT and Chris Harwood AA6AT.President Todd asked for the approval of the agenda, Motion Carried.

SECRETRARY REPORT- It was moved by Audrey and Seconded by Karen to accept the minutes as published in the Blown Fuse; Motion Carried.

TREASURER REPORT- Audrey read it and it will publish in the Blown Fuse. Filed for audit.

VICE PRESIDENT REPORT-Howdy said he is always open for program ideas. Tonight, he would like volunteers to share what you have done and would like to do.

PRESIDENT REPORT-The Board discussed the last steps for the election of officers. Todd missed the CCCC/EBARC Holiday Party due to a schedule conflict and was sorry he missed it. He reported identifying, labeling, measuring, and packaging several long wire dipole antennas in an Antenna bin that is part of the Club Equipment. He returned the bin where other equipment is stored at UUCB. He couldn't connect the wire antennas to a radio to verify they worked. That testing work is left for the future.

OLD BUSINESS- Jan gave a report of the activities from the Holiday Party. There were 19 there and presents for all, and some got two with a second drawing. There was a good variety of foods, and Jan always looks forward to the three groups getting together, the CCCC, EBARC and Karo-Echo at our two events each year, the picnic, and the holiday party. It was great to put faces to the voices heard on the air.

Election- Audrey mailed out ballots and notices for dues. There were 38 ballots returned to be counted. Jeff Miller, Frans Kuypers and Jay Fenton volunteered to be on the election committee. The committee will count ballots at this meeting. The committee will also announce results tonight.

Todd presented a proposal to amend the Bylaws and Constitution. The changes amend the Constitution Article IX about Club Property. The proposed changes add Article 5, Equipment, to the Bylaws. The proposal was developed in response to a lack of policy regarding donated equipment and acquisitions. He reported that the Executive Committee had discussed these changes and approved them being forwarded to the membership for consideration. The amendments were published in the December 2024 Blown Fuse. Todd summarized the changes: Constitution Article IX adds a definition of property and replaces existing text with an elaborated version. By-laws Article 5 is new. The Article adds 4 sections (Procurement, Acquisition of Donated Equipment, Donated Equipment Acquisition Team, Disposition) regarding Club Equipment. The proposed policy defines and clarifies past practices of responding to requests for help to dismantle amateur radio stations. It also creates a structure for how the club acquires and disposes of equipment and supplies. Todd would like feedback from the membership on the proposed procedures. It is a work in progress. A copy of the proposal will be in the January Blown Fuse.

There was discussion about equipment: details of ownership, the equipment value, insurance, who chooses to accept, and challenges of storing. There are limitations on storage space and there are costs incurred for storing. Is there a need and use for what we get? The Club needs to document what it already has. The Club has been fortunate to have volunteers to help with service requests.

The Club has been fortunate with donations that have come in, monetary and tangible items. Some equipment just needs to be cleaned up, some needs to be fixed, some needs to be redistributed, some things purged, and some things can be used by our club for field day or future station. Almost everyone at the meeting, online and in-person, had suggestions. We are hoping for more input from other members. This is an on-going project. Suggestions are also welcome for monetary donations the club has received to honor a member. There were several members who volunteered to help with this project. Each donation will be considered case by case.

NEW BUSINESS: Elections. Report from the counters: All candidates received the required majority of the votes for their office. President-Mathison Ott, Vice President-Howdy Goudey, Secretary-Jan Kuhl, Treasurer-Audrey Nieman, 2nd VP: Membership-Karen Fenton. Congratulations!

Program: several spoke of what they had accomplished or wish to accomplish in the field of Radio.
Todd's goal is to update the Club Equipment inventory as a special project. He expects to collaborate with other members to determine what we have, its condition, and to verify where it is being stored, and whether it is useful to the club going forward. Then he plans to make recommendations regarding changes to the inventory (a.k.a. viability to keep). He has purchased a tri-band UHF/VHF DMR radio and hopes to get it programed and to use it.
Robin Mitchell, KN6CRP, volunteered to help with the inventory and set up a spreadsheet.
Mathison's goal is to transition to the new Board, and he also wants to help with by-laws changes and other Board Policies.
Lorraine Schnurr, KN6CRT wants to get a new antenna; she needs to return the current one to Jay and Karen. She would also need help to set up a new antenna.
Frans Kuypers, KJ6IUV, reported that he helped as a VE for testing. There were 34 people who took the tests and 19 passed. David Swanson, KJ6AAT and Diane Richwine, KK6RED, also worked on the test session. There is a class scheduled in January, and there will be more information in The Blown Fuse. He is also working on more hands- on radio use.
Alvin Todd, KK6UQX, reported that it has been a traumatic year, but he has been working on DMR to get it programmed. You Tube is helpful.

Mathison Ott, KJ6DZB, is looking forward to field day since he hadn't attended one in the past few years. He wants to get back on HF once his antenna is restored, and he is looking forward to what other people want to do.
Jay Fenton, KJ6WSS, is doing lots of antenna preparations and working at the CCCC repeater site. He is making Portable base stations. He would love to get further out in our area for connections in case of emergency. He also has been doing a lot of farm work. He is always glad to help with antennas up/down. It takes teamwork and volunteers to make it happen. There are a lot of logistics to make it safe.
Frans Kuypers, KJ6IUV, wants to see friends working/volunteering together to work out the frustrations.
Robin Mitchell, KN6CRP stated that Field Day was a highlight for groups working together as a social and as radio experience. Parks on the Air have been fun; Rosie the Riveter was a fun event. She would like to identify where several could go and get a group together. There are several sites in our greater Bay Area.
DJ, KJ6DJ, said he used to do more outdoor events, and he really enjoyed doing SAG at sporting events. That was a big thrill to do. He has been working on CERT, FL-Digi, Saturday AM nets. He prefers to work on the local radio now.
Lorraine Schnurr, KN6CRT, wants to learn about Echo-Link. She is working on CW with Don. Contra Costa College has a student radio club, and she would like to be more involved with them and to learn more about them. Todd Teachout, W8BIK, said the College has partnered with NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory to assist students wanting to study subjects useful to the agency. They got a grant to get an

antenna. Robin Mitchell said maybe we could get them involved with our Field Day. Todd said that the College had a radio club in the past. It appears to have been shut down around the time the new Sciences Building was being completed. The older buildings where antennas and equipment may have been vacated. There may be an opportunity for EBARC to collaborate with the College. Maybe EBARC could re-establish relations or otherwise be blended with them.
Robin Spalding, N6RLS, says he needs to work with more code to be initiative-taking and to practice often. What is the Future for CW?
Audrey Nieman, W6BBQ, has not been able to get on the air lately, but hopes to step up when she can. She has been very busy with the Blown Fuse, Treasurer work, Roster for EBARC as well as CCCC. She has also been involved with the Food Bank 3 days a week.
Jan Kuhl, AC5RB, has been involved with ACCERT with radio command station and now has a GMRS radio, and will soon be able to communicate with CART (animal rescue in Napa County) non-hams in emergency. She is getting it programed to ACCERT frequencies. She would also like to relearn the CW that she used to get her Extra license.
Howdy Goudey, KE6BEE would like to see what we can do about the CERT shed we have here at the facility.
Karen Fenton, KK6ZPM likes to assess what people would be good at and might be interested in and to use their talents as we can. Each club has their own program. We can offer training, practice, and encouragement. We all can use Elmers and encouragement.

Meeting adjourned 9:08 PM

Respectfully Submitted
Jan Kuhl, Secretary

Message from Karen Fenton KK6ZPM

As your new Membership Chair, I am excited about sharing my ideas with the Executive Committee and with you for 2025. Once these ideas are approved, I will solicit your help to implement them.
To me, Membership means **Membership Services**. We will develop fun, challenging activities, support our current members, and **r**ecruit new members.
Created in 1947, East Bay Amateur Radio Club attracted radio folks from all over, primarily in Alameda and Contra Costa counties. EBARC's archived newsletters describe multiple fun activities. The club size grew to 85 members, active in overnight Field Days, operating its own radio shack, volunteering at marathons and other races, and providing ARRL Volunteer Examiners for licensing sessions.
EBARC may not be able to repeat its heydays of the past, as it now competes against so many other Bay Area ham clubs and other communication media. Let us focus instead on new ways to satisfy the interest of our members.
Soon you will be receiving a survey questionnaire to guide our club program planners. Please complete the survey and return it as soon as possible. Then be ready for some EBARC surprises.

Treasurer's Report
As of 12/31/2024

Balance Forward	**$13,100.17**
Income:	
Deposit dues	**780.00**
PayPal Transfer	**101.85**
Disbursements .00	
New Balance	**$13,982.02**

Now accepting dues for 2025
Regular Member $35.00
Family Membership $45.00
PayPal to treasurer@ebarc.org

Or mail to:
EBARC
P.O. Box 1393
El Cerrito, CA 94530

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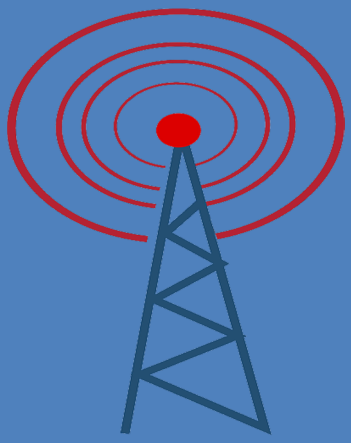
PENDING ITEMS

CLUB Station: Still on-hold pending meetings with the UUCB Faith Leader, and Executive Director and/or other UUCB personnel.

Vacancies:

- Licensed Volunteer Examiners& Testing
- Coordinator Radio Operator License Test Prep
- Instructors Community Support (Sports events, scouting, Maker Faires)
- Program Presenters



25 Years Ago: 2000

President Burgie Jones, KE6MSF was the newly elected president. She thanked everyone for voting for her and wished everyone a Happy New Year.
She writes: Our Christmas party was great. It was held at the Elk's Lodge in Vallejo. Barbara Robinson, KD6OKJ and Donna Mae did an outstanding job with the gifts and organization of the party. Our Christmas party at our last club meeting was so much fun. We "stole" gifts from others, had a great desert buffet and lots of fun."
She announced that the club was planning a Crab Feed fundraiser for February 19 at the United Methodist Church in Pinole. Tickets will be available on January 1st at $20 per person.

50 Years Ago: 1975

An 8-week Novice Preparation Class was scheduled to begin on January 15th, 7-9 PM at the Fairmont Recreation Center.
The Last Monthly Meeting on Friday, the 13th turned out to be an auspicious day as much equipment changed hands at the Club's second auction of the year.

The meeting also saw the election of Bob Pigford, K6QS as club president, and Lyman Wiltshire, WN6FAS as Club Vice President.
The club is looking for a storeroom, shed, or extra room suitable, that can be used as headquarters to put W6CUS on the air.

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The East Bay Amateur Radio Club, founded in 1947, is a California non-profit organization of amateur radio operators in Contra Costa and Alameda counties. The club is open to anyone with an amateur radio license. Annual dues are $35 for individual membership, $45 for family membership, and $10 for students K-12. For information, send email to ebham.office@gmail.com, contact any EBARC officer, see Web page *www.ebarc.org*, or write EBARC, P.O. Box 1393, El Cerrito, CA 94530. You can also follow us on Twitter using @w6cus, or on Facebook's "East Bay Amateur Radio Club."

2025 East Bay Amateur Radio Club Executive Committee

Mathison Ott, KJ6DZB, President	510-701-0234
Jan Kuhl, AC5RB, Secretary.....	510-846-3829
Howdy Goudey, KE6BEE, 1st VP / Program Chair	510-684-9097
Karen Fenton, KK6ZPM, 2nd VP/ Membership	510-701-7443
Audrey Nieman, W6BBQ, Treasurer / Finance Chair	510-682-7938

2025 EBARC's Other Committee Heads and Contacts

Blown Fuse Editor: Audrey Nieman, W6BBQ 510-682-7938
W6CUS Trustee Chris Harwood 510-332-7383
Webmasters: Chris & Isaac Harwood 510-332-7383

Bay Area Amateur Radio Nets

HF Nets: Add suggestions.

Net	Days	Time	PL	FREQ MHZ
Over the Hill Commuter CCCC	M-F	0710	82.5-	145.110
CCCC 220 Net	Tues	1930	82.5+	224.300
WC EMCOMM Net	Thu	1845	82.5	145.110
CCCC Evening Net	Thu	1930	82.5-	145.110
KARO/ECHO EMCOMM NET	Thu	1900	simplex	146.415
NALCO ARES EMCOMM Net	Thu	1915	77-	440.900
ORCA Net	Thu	1930	77	146.880
Bay Area EMCOMM Net	SAT	0900	82.5-	145.110
CCCC WC Net	Sat	0915	82.5-	444.275
Bay Area Comm Net	Sat	0930	82.5+	224.300
Cert FL Digi Net	Sat	1000	82.5+	444.275

HF Net Info

Wednesday Noon Net				
7.284	40m	LSB	Wednesday	12:00 Noon
Bay Area NVIS Net				
3.890	80m	LSB	Saturday	8:00 AM
Daily Nets				
7.2685	40m	LSB	Daily	12:00 PM (Noon)
7.264	40m	LSB	Daily	5.00 PM
3.906	80m	LSB	Daily	6:00 PM
3.975	80m	LSB	Daily	7:00 PM
3.952	80m	LSB	Daily	7:30 PM
14.305	20m	USB	14305DX Net	13:00z
14.345	20m	USB	Family Hour	14-17:00z
21.350	15m	USB	Family Hour	17:30z
7.258	40m	LSB	Midcars	5:30AM-11AM PST

DX peditions:

Nigeria, January 2025, 5N9DTG Team will be active at Abuja, Nigeria. The team is comprised of Members of the Rebel DX Group.
They will operate on 160 - 6m, CW, FT8 and possible SSB.
QSL via ClubLog OQRS.

Benin, Jan 10-April 2, 2025, Gerard, F5RAV will be active as TY5.
He will operate on 80 - 10m, CW, FT8.
QSL via F5RAV.

More DX Peditions info at https://dxnews.com/dxpeditions/

Upcoming Activities

Contests		
Event Name	**Info/Rules**	**Time/Date**
QRP Fox Hunt	http://www.qrpfoxhunt.org/winter_rules.htm	CW 20m only Jan 1
A1 Club AWT	https://a1club.org/contest/awt/	1200Z-1300Z, Jan 1, 2025
NCCC FT4 Sprint	https://www.ncccsprint.com/ft4ns.html	0100Z-0130Z, Jan 3, 2025
ARRL RTTY Roundup	https://www.arrl.org/rtty-roundup	1800Z, Jan 4 to 2400Z, Jan 5, 2025
EUCW 160m contest	https://www.uft.net/activites-et-concours/concours-eucw-uft-on5me/	2000Z-2300Z, Jan 4 and 0400Z-0700Z, Jan 5, 2025
ARS Spartan Sprint	http://ars-qrp.com/Spartan_Sprint/Spartan_Sprint.html	0100Z-0300Z, Jan 7, 2025
4 States QRP Group Second Sunday Sprint	http://www.4sqrp.com/SSS/sss_rules.pdf	0100Z-0300Z, Jan 13, 2025
Walk for the Bacon QRP Contest	https://qrpcontest.com/pigwalk20/	20m: 0000Z-0100Z, Jan 16 and 0200Z-0300Z, Jan 17, 2025
Winter Field Day	https://www.winterfieldday.com/	1600Z, Jan 25 to 2159Z, Jan 26, 2025
QCX Challenge	http://www.qrp-labs.com/party.html	1500Z, Dec 28 to 1500Z, Dec 29

More Contest info at https://www.contestcalendar.com
And at https://www.arrl.org/contest-calendar

Proposed Change to EBARC By-Laws

Your 2024 President identified a matter not well addressed in the Club Constitution and ByLaws. The acquisition and disposition of Club Equipment. Over the last few months, he's collaborated with members of the Executive Committee and a few other members to draft the following Proposed Amendments.

The Constitution and ByLaws underwent significant reviews and revision that were approved by the membership on July 7, 2021.

The approved Constitution and ByLaws can be found at:

https://www.qsl.net/w/w6cus/pdf/EBARC_Constitution_&_Bylaws_7-21.pdf

Overview:

EBARC members are contacted from time to time by members of the Community who want to dispose of Amateur Radio equipment. Often the request includes a need for assistance to dismantle antenna towers and antenna attached to buildings. Responses to such requests have been made on an Ad-Hoc basis and the people assisting use the opportunity to evaluate and acquire property. EBARC appears to acquire items from people who are ok with donating items(s) to the club. It is believed that most of the equipment in EBARC inventory was acquired this way.

The Club Constitution and By Laws offer little guidance and direction on handling these offers and the property that is transferred. Existing policies:

EBARC Constitution

Club Property – Article IX

"Any and all property purchased by or donated to the Club shall be property of the Club, and no member shall have a financial interest in and Club Money or Property.

EBARC Bylaws

There is no policy currently in place about club property.

What is proposed below is an effort to try to clarify such matters.

Proposed Amendments

Constitution

Club Property – Article IX

Amend Article IX to add:

Definition: Club Property shall be defined as a tangible product that can be stored or inventoried and has an average life of at least three years. Club Property shall also be defined as to include financial assets.

Products purchased by an authorized Club member or donated to the Club (and accepted) shall be the property of the Club. Club tangible product Property having value of $100 or more shall be accounted for in an inventory. All Financial assets shall be accounted for. No member shall have a financial interest in any Club Property.

By-Laws

Add Article V
Equipment
Section 1: Procurement
Equipment is necessary for implementing Amateur Radio Operations and holding meetings. Equipment acquired by the Club may be purchased through club funds, by financial grant, or by donation. Equipment having values more than $100 (2024 dollars) shall be documented in a Club Inventory. When possible, the inventory shall include the item description including make, model, function, serial number, value of equipment, date acquired shall be recorded. The inventory shall be maintained by Station Trustee or designee with a copy held by the Treasurer. The inventory should be reviewed and updated periodically (ideally annually) and reported to the Executive Committee.
Section 2: Acquisition of Donated Equipment
From time to time a member of the Club is contacted by a party (a.k.a. person(s) or organization(s) who want to dispose of amateur radio equipment in their possession. This contact includes an offer to sell or donate the equipment to the club. When these offers require effort to dismantle the equipment including but not limited to Antennas, Towers, Radio, Radio Accessories, the club members (including Station Trustee) responding to the inquiry shall decide whether to attend. Items offered to the club at a cost must first be approved by a majority of Executive Committee Members before it can be accepted for donation or purchase. This acceptance consideration may be informal via telephone or electronic communication methods between Club meetings Equipment acquired by donation should include a "transfer of title" document/receipt which has details of the item(s) donated consistent with inventory information form.
Section 3: Donated Equipment Acquisition Team
Members of the Club who assist in the lawful acquisition and/or dismantling of amateur radio and related equipment offered to the club and accepted shall be called the Donated Equipment Acquisition Team (DEAT). The DEAT may be assisted by other people, a.k.a. non-members of the club.
DEAT members and assistants shall sign a Waiver of Liability release prior to participating in a dismantling or erecting event. The Waiver of Liability is intended to release the Club from accident or injury claims arising from amateur radio dismantling or erecting events.
The DEAT and assistants may be compensated for their efforts in the form of claiming equipment from the disposing party for their personal use if the equipment is not needed for club activities. The club has the first right to donate the item. The Station Trustee shall have the authority to determine the need for donated items shall be added to Club inventory. Equipment acquired but determined to be unnecessary for Club operations shall be sold with proceeds going into the club.
Section 4: Disposition of Equipment
Club tangible product Property has a finite life. The Station Trustee in consultation with the Executive Committee shall evaluate the ongoing need to keep Club Property in inventory. Items deemed no longer necessary shall be reported to the Executive Committee periodically. The Executive Committee shall make the decision to dispose of club equipment. The equipment being disposed of shall be offered to current club members. Club members may purchase the equipment for not less than fair value. The remaining equipment shall be offered for sale in accepted markets of used items (e.g., Craig's List, eBay). The remaining equipment shall be offered to Club members for no cost. Remaining items shall be disposed of and/or recycled for raw materials.